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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

FOX RIVER

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

AT ITS

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING,

HELD AT

AURORA, ILLS., 1st & 2nd JUNE., 1853.

OSWEGO:
H. S. HUMPHREY, PRINTER, COURIER OFFICE,
JUDSON'S BLOCK, MAIN STREET.

1853.

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Baptists. Illinois.

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CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be known by the name of the "FOX RIVER ASSOCIATION."

ART. 2. The object of this Association, shall be to aid in the promotion of the spread of the Gospel; and the establishment of the kingdom of Christ within its own limits, and throughout the world; by affording opportunity for, and encouragement to the exercises of Christian fellowship; mutual consultation, and concerted action among the Churches of this Association.

ART. 3. The officers of the Association shall consist of a Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Recording and Corresponding Secretary. The three former to be chosen annually; the latter to continue in office at the pleasure of the Association; the officers to be chosen by ballot.

ART. 4. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside and lead in all the transactions of the meeting, and to see that order and decorum are observed by all the members.

The Treasurer shall receive all moneys of the Association, keep an accurate account of the same, and the objects for which they are designed, pay them out according to the order of Association, and make a report of the state of the treasury before the close of each session.

The Clerk shall keep a fair and impartial record of all the business transacted during the session.

ART. 5. This Association shall consist of the Pastors of the churhces composing it; of one delegate from each church, and one additional delegate for every twenty members each church may contain; but any church of more than one hundred members shall be entitled to one additional delegate only for every fifty members beyond that number; the delegates to be chosen annually.

ART. 6. Churches are required to send letters by their messengers containing an account of their increase or diminution, and whatever relates to the r peace and prosperity. With their letters each Church shall forward money for the printing of the minutes.

ART. 7. Churches may be received into this union, by applying through letters, or messengers or both, and giving satisfactory evidence of being sound in doctrine and practice; and in token of the same, the Moderator shall extend to them, in behalf of the Association, the right hand of fellowship.

ART. 8. Although as an associated body, we utterly disclaim all power over the churches, so far as it respects an interference with their independency and discipline; yet we deem it our privilege, to judge for ourselves of the propriety of continuing any church in our connection, which to us shall appear to be heterodox in principle, or irregular in practice. In order, however, that we may not withdraw our fellowship without sufficient reason, it is proposed, that when a complaint is made by any two churches of this body against a church belonging to this Association, (if thought expedient,) they shall appoint a committee, who shall request a conference with said church, in order to obtain satisfaction on the points which formed the subject of complaint, and the result shall be reported to the next meeting of the Association, in order that they may decide as duty may require.

ART. 9. When a church shall neglect making any communication to the Association for the space of three years together, it shall be considered as having withdrawn from us, and, of course, shall be dropped from the minutes, unless two or more members shall request their continuance, and will also engage to enquire into their standing, and report at the next meeting of the Association.

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Art. 10. This Association shall meet annually, on the first Wednesday in June, and continue in session, at least two days.

Art. 11. It shall be the duty of the Association to appoint, immediately after its organization, a "Prudential Committee" of five, whose duty it shall be to prepare and arrange all the business to come before the body.

Art. 12. No article of this Constitution shall be altered, except at an annual meeting, and such proposed alteration shall be delivered in writing to the Moderator, as soon as he shall have been appointed, who shall nominate a committee of three to report thereon.

Rules of Order.

I. At every sitting, business shall be opened and concluded with prayer by the Moderator, or whomsoever he may request.

II. Ministers present, invited to a seat with us, may debate on all subjects, but vote on none.

III. No member of the Association shall absent himself without leave of the Moderator.

IV. No subject shall be discussed, without a motion first made and seconded.

V. No person shall speak oftener than twice on any motion, unless by permission of the Moderator.

VI. Motions made and lost, shall not be recorded upon the minutes, except so ordered at the time,

VII. Arrangements for the next Association shall not be attended to, on the first day of the session.

VIII. On the opening of business the second day, the roll of the messengers commissioned by the churches shall be called, and the names of those who have not arrived shall be stricken off. Nevertheless, ministers and licentiates shall be inserted with the mark of absence.

IX. The minutes shall be leisurely read and corrected before the rising of the Association.

X. Motions to lay upon the table, to indefinitely postpone, for the previous question, and for adjournment, shall always be in order, and not debatable.

XI. These rules shall be distinctly read from the chair, immediately after the organization of the Association,

XII. The Moderator of the previous Association, or in the event of his absence, the minister who shall preach the introductory sermon, be appointed to call the Association to order.

PROCEEDINGS.

———o‡o———

The Association met at half past 10 o'clock A. M., on Wednesday, June 1st. The Rev. J. Higby preached the introductory Sermon from 9th Chap. Heb.: latter clause of 22d verse—"Without shedding of blood, is no remission."

At the close of the sermon, a collection was made, for the benefit of widows and children of deceased ministers. Amount, $5 58.

Elder Ashley was elected Moderator; Brother J. McClellan, Treasurer *pro tem*; Dan'l Haigh, Clerk.

The following brethren were chosen a Prudential Committee:—I. D. Newell, J. Young, J. Higby, J. B. Dibble, and J. C. Burroughs.

Adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock P. M. Prayer by Rev. J. C. Burroughs.

The Association met at 2 o'clock P. M. Prayer by the Moderator.

The Rules of Order were read by the Moderator.

Bro. Ellsworth, was continued Treasurer.

Letters from Churches were then called for, presented, and read—from which the annexed statistics were compiled.

The Prudential Committee reported, that Rev. J. C. Burroughs preach this evening, at quarter before 8 o'clock; and at the close of the sermon, that Elder Powell present the cause of Home Missions, and a collection be made for that object.

Application for admission into the Association by the Churches of Somonauk and Joliet, were made.

Resolved, That the name of the old "Joliet Church," be struck off from the list of the minutes of this Association.

That the application of the new Joliet Church. for admission, be received as the "First Baptist Church," in Joliet.

That the Church at Somonauk, be received as a member of this body.

Application was made on behalf of the Church at Virgil, for admission, which was referred to the Prudential Committee.

The report of the Committee on this application was, "That they recommend the Church of Virgil to call a council to recognize them as a sister Church, in regular standing of the denomination; and that when recognized, they then make application for admission into this Association."

Resolved, That the above report of the Committee be adopted.

The Moderator on behalf of the Association, gave the hand of fellowship to one Delegate, from each of the Churches of Somonauk and Joliet.

Delegates f om the following Corresponding Associations, were called for and responded as follows:

Ottawa—Elders Young and Higby.
Rock River—None present.
Walworth—None present.
Rock Island—None present.
Chicago—N. Kinney, S. H. Wilcox, and E. Schofield.

Visiting brethren pr esent were then invited to seats with us, and Elders Powell, from Ottawa Association, S. P. Ives, from McLean Association, and Elder Hicks, from Ashford Association, Connecticut, were reported as present.

The following brethren were appointed to Corresponding Associations:

To the Walworth Association—Elders J. D. Cole and Luther Stone.
" Rock River " " J. D. Cole and Thomas Powell.
" Illinois River " " Powell, S. P. Ives and J. D. Cole.
" Rock Island " " J. D. Cole.

Resolved, That a correspondence be opened with the McLean Association, and that Brethren J. D. Cole, Powell, Almon Ives, and F. B. Ives, be appointed Delegates.

" That the following brethren be appointed Delegates to the General Association, to be held at Bloomington, viz:—Elders J. D. Cole, Luther Stone, I. D. Newell, J. F. Childs, J. Young, J. C. Burroughs, J. Higby; and Brethren Wm. M. Haigh, Almon Ives, A. D. Tittsworth, Dan'l Haigh, O. Wilson, A. Churchill, and Festus Burr.

" That the Delegates be empowered to fill vacancies from members present.

" That Elder L. Stone be appointed to write the Letter to the General Association.

Adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 8 o'clock.

Prayer by Elder Ashley.

At quarter before 8 o'clock Elder J. C. Burroughs addressed the congregation from 2d Chap. I. Cor.: 2d verse—" For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ and him crucified;" at the close of which, an appeal was made on behalf of Home Missions, and a collection was taken up. Amount, $7 25.

The Association met on Thursday morning pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by Elder Schofield.

The Roll of the Messengers delegated by the Churches, was called over by the Clerk, and the names of those not arrived, struck off.

Resolved, That the Clerk be appointed to prepare a digest of the Letters of the Churches, for insertion in the minutes.

" That the Constitution and Rules of Order, be continued to be printed in the minutes.

" That a committee of three be appointed, to examine the Constitution and Rules of the Association, and to make such amendments as they may think advisable, and present their report at the next Association.

" That Brethren J. D. Cole, J. C. Burroughs, and Luther Stone, be appointed a Committee for the above purpose.

The following resolution was then adopted, to be inserted in the " Rules of Order," viz:

That the Moderator of the previous Association, or in the event of his absence, the minister who shall preach the introductory Sermon, be appointed to call the Association to order.

Resolved, That Brethren Dan'l Haigh, and W. E. Ives, be appointed to superintend the printing of the minutes.

" That Elder Silas Tucker, and Dr. L. D. Boone be appointed a Committee to aid Bro. Ellsworth, in searching out the previous history of the accounts of the Widows and Orphans Fund, and a statement be prepared, and reported next session.

" That the Treasurer be allowed and instructed, to loan out the balance of the widows and orphans fund, on good security, and at the legal rate of interest.

" That while we are deeply grateful for the aid heretofore furnished to the Churches of this State, by the American Baptist Home Mission Society; and must for years to come depend on that Society to aid us in fostering the feeble Churches, scattered over our wide extended State; we yet feel that it is high time that Illinois do something for itself, independently of foreign aid: and that for this purpose, the General Association is designed and adapted, and ought to be put in possession of means for prosecuting this work: that therefore, this Association endeavor to secure $200, for the Treasury of the General Association, between this and its annual meeting next October; and that the Pastors be requested to present the object to their several charges; and to raise from each, its proportion of the amount.

The Report of the Prudential Committee, that Elder J. D. Cole preach this morning at half past 10 o'clock, and a collection be made at the close, on behalf of Foreign Missions, was adopted.

At half past 10 o'clock A. M., Elder J. D. Cole preached from 16 Ch. Mark, 15th verse—" And he said unto them, go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," at the close of which, a collection was made on behalf of the American " Baptist Missionary Union," amounting to $11 41.

The Prudential Committee made the following report which was adopted.

Resolved, That the recent enactments of the State Legislature of Illinois, in reference to persons of color, are steeped in oppression to that portion of our countrymen, a disgrace to any Legislative body, an insult to the intelligence and patriotism of the State, and imposes on us as *Christians*, the obligation to *labor assiduously* for its *repeal.*

Resolved, That the recent providential dealings of God, in giving the Home Mission Society access to the extensive increase of territory now our own; and the consequent influx of population from almost every portion of the world, gives that Society a claim upon our sympathies and contributions, not second to that of any other benevolent object before us.

The above resolution was supported by an excellent address from Elder Powell.

Resolved, That while the Am. Bap. Miss. Union as the recognized agency of the American Baptists, for sending the gospel to the heathen world, has always proved itself worthy of all confidence and the largest co-operation; it has at the present time, new claims upon the Churches in view of the enlarged field of operation, opened before it in Southern Burmah; and the new aspects of promise in many of its missions, especially that in Germany; and that the vote of the Union at its recent meeting in Albany, calling for an increase in the contributions of the present year of $25,000 over the preceding year, is in accordance with the sense of this body; and should be practically responded to by the Churches and Pastors of this Association.

Resolved, That we regard the Am. and For. Bible Society, as an agency for the distribution of the Word of Life in its purity to the nations of the earth, entitled to the confidence and support of the friends of Zion.

Resolved, That we esteem the American Baptist Publication Society, as worthy of the warmest sympathies, ardent prayers and liberal contributions of our Churches.

Resolved, That the next meeting of the Association be held with the Church at Oswego, on the first Wednesday in June, 1854.

Resolved, That Bro. J. F. Childs preach the introductory Sermon, and Bro. J. B. Dibble be his alternate.

Resolved, That Bro. I. D. Newell, write the Circular Letter.

Resolved, That the Association ask Bro. Stone to propose the lowest terms on which he will dispose of the "Watchman of the Prairies," and that a Committee be appointed to examine such proposition, and to negotiate the purchase of the paper, by some party who will furnish the denomination with a good paper, at an early day.

Resolved, That Elder J. C. Burroughs, and Brethren O. Wilson, Dr. Anderson, A. D. Tittsworth, and Dr. L. D. Boone, be constituted a Committee, to carry into effect the provisions of the above resolution.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association be presented to the brethren and friends of Aurora, for the kind welcome, and entertainment, which we have received at their hands, during this meeting.

Resolved, That this Association now adjourn, to meet on the first Wednesday in June, 1854, at Oswego in Kendall County.

The Moderator after having made appropriate remarks, concluded with Prayer.

Churches and Clerks.	Delegates.	Rec. by Bap'm	Rec. by Letter.	Dism'd by Let.	Restored.	Excluded.	Died.	Present Numbers.	Support of Pastors and Charities.	Minutes.
Aurora P. O., Kane county, *Lyman Balding.*	I. D. Newell, R. C. Anderson, G. W. Baker, Wm. Panton, H. Gifford, H. S. L. Chandler, W. C. Vanosdel.	57	49	1	—	—	1	123	674,48	1,25
Batavia P. O., Kane county, *O. Wilson.*	H. Burlingame, Geo. Vanderwarker, O. Wilson.	—	3	10	—	11	2	60	———	1,25
Bristol P. O., Kendall county, *J. McClellan.*	J. Young, J. McClellan, Isaac Grimwood, D. Bennett.	1	2	1	—	—	1	45	132,00	1,00
Chicago P. O., Cook county, *C. Bentley.*	J. C. Burroughs, E. Tucker, D.D., [absent J. D. Cole, L. Stone, A. D. Tittsworth.	4	31	17	—	1	—	332	920,00	3,00
Hadley P. O., Will county, *J. Stilt.*	J. B. Dibble, Clark Davis.	4	1	2	—	15	1	101	14,00	2,00
Joliet P. O., Will county, *J. C. Williams.*	J. F. Childs.	—	3	1	—	—	—	15	———	0,50
Kaneville P. O., Kane county, *Jno. Lewis, Jr.*	A. Churchill, J. H. Thompson, Jno. Lewis, Jr.	—		7	—	—	1	87	———	1,00
Lockport P. O., Will county *Wm. Cox.*	J. F. Childs.	3	6	5	—	2	3	30	295,00	1,00
Pavillion P. O., Kendall county, *Almon Ives.*	*Wm. M. Haigh,* Almon Ives, Dan'l Haigh.	3	3	5	—	1	2	84	38,26	1,50
Naperville P. O., DuPage county, *Lewis Ellsworth,*	Silas Tucker, [absent. Peter Northup, M. M. Miles, Cha's Hyde, Jno. McDaniels.	15	9	4	—	1	1	95	630,75	1,30
Newark P. O., Kendall county. *S. S. Wright.*	J. Higby. H. Gridley, Jr. Silas Brainard.	37	23	11	—	—	—	100	16,25	1,00
Oswego P. O., Kendall county, *Festus Burr.*	A. Edson, Dan'l Ashley, Wm. E. Ives, Nahum Parkhurst, Festus Burr.	—	2	6	—	1	—	65	———	1,00
		124	114	70	—	32	12	1137	2721,10	15,80

Churches and Clerks.	Delegates.	Rec. by Bap'm.	Rec. by Letter.	Dism'd by Let.	Restored.	Excluded.	Died.	Present Numbers.	Support of Pastors and Charities,	Minutes.
Brought over.		124	114	70	—	32	12	1137	2721,10	15,80
Plainfield P. O., Will county, *S. B. Tyler.*	R. B. Ashley, Dea. Ashley, Dea. D. D. Green.	—	3	9	—	1	1	89	26,70	1,50
Big Rock P. O., *J. Whelden.*	J. Whelden, E. Price, W. Hughes.	2	—	—	—	—	—	22	5,25	0,50
Warrenville P.O., DuPage county, *A. E. Carpenter.*	Hiram Dailey, Phineas Graves, A. E. Carpenter.	—	9	8	—	2	—	83	——	1,00
Downer'sGr.P.O. DuPage county, *Lewis Pound.*	Albin Lull, Edward Goodenough.	15	3	—	—	—	—	52	——	1,00
Somonauk P. O., De Kalb county.	J. Young, William Potter.	—	3	7	—	—	—	37	——	——
		141	132	94	—	35	13	1,420	2753,05	19,80

TREASURER'S REPORT.

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS FUND.

Balance from last year,	$22,83	
Collection at the Association,	5,58	
		$28,41

HOME MISSION FUND.

Collection at the Association,	$7,25	
Big Rock,	5,25	
Plainfield,	5,50	
		$18,00

FOREIGN MISSIONARY UNION.

Collection at the Association,	$11,41	
Aurora,	5,65	
Pavillion,	5,44	
Somonauk,	2,50	
		$25,00

AMERICAN AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

Plainfield,	$7,10	
Pavillion,	3,72	
		$10,82

FUND FOR MINUTES.

Balance from last year,	$3,85	
Amount sent by the Churches,	19,80	
		$23,65

JUNE 2nd, 1853.

J. McCLELLAN,
Treasurer *pro. tem.*

DIGEST OF LETTERS.

AURORA.—Are happy to receive the Association in their new house of worship, and also to be able through the Divine blessing, to communicate cheering intelligence. Since last Association, they have not only erected their meeting house, but the Church which then numbered 19 members, has received considerable accessions. They have an interesting Sabbath School of about 60 and a Bible Class of about 30. Being in debt for their house of worship, they are sustaining a heavy burden, but desire the prayers of the Churches that they may be supported.

BATAVIA.—Since their last report, they have passed through a trying season of adversity, which has not only reduced their numbers, but their means for the support of the Ministry also. "Though troubled on every side, they are not distressed; perplexed, but not in despair;" but are making efforts, hoping to maintain the regular preaching of the word the present year. At present, Eld. Hicks from Connecticut, is preaching to them.—They have encouraging prospects in their Sabbath School, and have just received a $10 Library from the American Sunday School Union.

BIG ROCK.—Have been striving to maintain the cause of God amongst them, notwithstanding many discouragements. Have had no stated pastor during the past year, but have been partially supplied by Rev. Z. Brooks. Are in harmony with each other, and with all our denominational enterprises, and pray for the Holy Spirit to be poured out upon them.

BRISTOL.—They trust that during the past year, the cause of God has gained strength among them. They still enjoy the labors of their pastor, Rev. J. Young, one half the time—are in union and fellowship with each other, and the Congregation has increased in stedfastness and numbers. They have a Sabbath School with fair prospects of usefulness.

CHICAGO.—In October last, they sustained a sudden and heavy blow in the burning of their house of worship; but are not without hope that under a kind Providence, this event will be overruled for the furtherance of the cause of Christ. They have entered into contract for a house to be completed in autumn next, considerably superior to their former one. In the meantime they occupy the building formerly known as the First Presbyterian Church. Since December last, they have enjoyed the labors of the Rev. J. C. Burroughs of New York, as their Pastor; and during the winter, the attendance on the ministry of the word, has been good. Some cases of conversion have occurred, and some baptismal seasons enjoyed. They have a Sabbath School of 210 Scholars, with 39 Teachers.

Downer's Grove.—They rejoice that God has dealt bountifully with them the past year, and that their prospects are cheering for the year to come. Whilst deeply regretting the loss of the useful labors of their former Pastor, Rev. S. F. Holt, yet their trust is in God, and through his blessing they hope to progress. They expect to have their house of worship finished this summer—have an interesting Sabbath School with a good attendance; and pray that the Great Head of the Church may send them a faithful under-shepherd.

Hadley.—They still enjoy the labors of their Pastor, Rev. J. B. Dibble. Whilst mourning over the small evidence of their progress during the past year, they would still rejoice that converting influences have not been withheld. The sacred leaven has been working in a few hearts, interesting them in the great salvation. In these tokens of God's mercy, they rejoice, though "with trembling." In examining their list of members, they have excluded or dropped the names of some persons from whom they have not heard for years.

Joliet.—Were organized during the past winter with 13 members—are feeble, but not discouraged—enjoy the labors of their Pastor, Rev. J. F. Childs, one half of each Sabbath, and by the help of God, hope to make progress in the divine life, and secure "a good report of them that are without." Have had donated to them a lot on which they are building a small but commodious house of worship—are at peace among themselves, and united in the good cause of their Lord and Master.

Kaneville.—The past year has been one of deep trials and affliction, but still a few are struggling for the visibility of the Church, and the glory of God. They have commenced a Sabbath School and Bible Class and are raising money to increase their Library. They are at present, destitute of a Pastor; but pray the Lord of the harvest to send one after his own heart. They desire the prayers of their Christian brethren.

Lockport.—Their Pastor, Rev. J. F. Childs, whom they ordained last February, still labors among them one half the time. Though they have enjoyed no especial outpouring of the Holy Spirit during the past year, and labor under a great disadvantage from having no house of worship of their own, yet they have been steadily gaining strength, and are united and at peace among themselves. They hope to build a meeting house the present year.

Naperville.—They still enjoy the labors of their esteemed pastor, Rev. S. Tucker, which have been blessed in the conversion of some precious souls, and in the continuance of peace and harmony among them. They have an interesting Sabbath School, furnished with a good Library.

Newark.—During the first half of the past year, their religious affairs wore rather an unfavorable aspect; but they rejoice that the clouds have been driven from their skies, and the sun of righeousness has dawned upon

them. During the winter, they commenced a series of meetings, which continued 8 or 10 weeks with increasing interest. They were assisted by Brethren Young of Bristol, and Breckenridge of La Salle, who labored with marked success. The blessed effects were not confined to the Church, but were extended also to the Congregational and Methodist brethren, by whom meetings were continued until April. As the result of these services, a goodly number were added to the Church, and nearly as many united with each of the other denominations. They would therefore adopt the language, "Blessed be the Lord, who daily *loadeth* us with benefits, even the God of our salvation," &c.

Oswego.—Their former Pastor, Rev. S. P. Ives, having removed, Rev. A. Edson accepted a unanimous call to resume his labors. While sensible of a want of spirituality and zeal in God's cause, they still rejoice that unanimity prevails amongst them. Their meetings on the Sabbath, are usually well attended, and they are not wholly without the Master's presence.

Pavilion.—The past year has been to them, one of trial. They mourn over their coldness and lack of union. Have obtained the services of Bro. W. M. Haigh for the remainder of the year, and feel encouraged to labor for Christ's cause both at home and abroad.

Plainfield.—They enjoy the faithful labors of Rev. R. B. Ashley for the present; feel united in walking in the ordinances of God's house, and in laboring for the advancement of His cause. Have a Sabbath School and Bible Class connected with the Church.

Somonauk.—Though their situation is that of a country Church, feeble and few, yet they hope during the present year, to build a house for God. Have made partial arrangements with Rev. J. Young, to be their Pastor, for the ensuing year. Their congregations are respectable, and hope they may be increased.

Warrenville.—Although they have enjoyed no special revival of God's grace among them, yet they have not been called upon to endure severe afflictions. They have enjoyed the labors of their much esteemed Pastor, Rev. S. F. Holt; but now, by his removal, are as sheep without a shepherd. They desire the prayers of the brethren, that the Lord would speedily send them a Pastor, deeply imbued with His *own* spirit.